http://theunlesspress.tumblr.com/ November 1, 2012

The Unless Press

Serving Greenville, Solla Sollew, and surrounding areas.

Issue 12, November 1

Upcoming Events

11/04/12	Decoration Day in Solla Sollew. Help us decorate the town for the holidays.
11/08/12	I-Scream parlor sale. All ice cream flavors at 1/2 off. For today only.
11/16-18/12	CTN Expo. Burbank, California. Buy your tickets online before they're gone!
11/22/12	Thanksgiving Day.

~ Normaler ~

If there's one thing this fandom is famous for, it's its ask blogs and its ships. One of the most popular (and, perhaps, notorious) ships is "Oncest", which is exactly what it sounds like -- pairing the Once-ler up with himself. However, there is another very popular ship in this fandom, and that is "Normaler". Many of you remember Ted Wiggins' grandmother, Norma, in the film, *The Lorax*, a feisty, outgoing spirit who helps Ted in his efforts to plant the last truffula seed. A fair few fans have seen the heart and charm in this character... and have taken things to the next level: What if Norma and the Once-ler knew each other more intimately in the past? Hence, "Normaler" was born.

In this issue we delve a little further into this ship, exposing everything from artwork... to an interview with a cosplayer... to ask blogs that highlight this charming individual. •

Did You Know?

Betty White did the voice of Grammy Norma in *The Lorax*.

Cosplayer Interview - Shopdeartiste

Artwork and fan fiction aren't the only ways that Normaler shippers express their support. There are cosplayers, too!

In this issue, we interview **Shopdeartiste**, a lovely lady who has cosplayed as Norma!

Q. Compared to other cosplays you've done, how difficult was it to put together the Norma one?

A. The cosplay itself wasn't too difficult to make, although I did go to a bit more effort than previous cosplays in that I actually bought over half of it already made. Usually I make every element of a cosplay from scratch (unless it's something like glasses, normal jewelry and shoes, etc.) but I picked up the green sweater and yellow handkerchief from a secondhand store! I went to about four different stores around town before I found the perfect sweater. The handkerchief was just a cute little bonus I found last minute! That's how it usually goes in secondhand stores. I didn't have to get a wig for this cosplay, which was a very nice bonus. And the shoes I had from a previous cosplay. However, cosplaying Norma really is a situation where you just have to go in blind. I knew I wanted to cosplay her, but I wasn't really sure HOW. It's my own headcanons and inspiration from my favorite artists that had me lean towards a 1950's sort of fashion with this project. There are a FEW things about young Norma that everyone seems to agree on, such as her basic personality, glasses, and her curly hair. But everything else is really free reign, and there's all kinds of inspiration you can draw from old fashion. 1950's is the era that really struck me, so I ran with that idea and I'm really proud of the results!

~ "A little shy, aren't you, Oncie?" ~

Q. What do you love most about the process: designing the outfit, making the outfit, or wearing it?

A. My favorite part of the...

(cont. on pg. 4)

Norma in the News

Fans of the Normaler ship have been around since near the very beginning of the fandom, and since then we've seen a number of creative ways that members have shown their support. Here, we take some time to look into some of those creations, from art to analyses.

~ Ask Blogs ~

Ask blogs are common in the Once-ler/Lorax fandom -- in fact, besides the very members themselves, they're the beating heart of the community. Once-ler ask blogs are, of course, the most common, but there are others that focus in on other characters, including Norma. Here are some active ones:

Ask-miss-norma:

ask-miss-norma.tumblr.com/

This ask blog is "run" by a young version of Norma. The moderator responds with art (which is equal parts simple and charming), and she even has her own music page.

Askgrammyfightingtheflu:

askgrammyfightingtheflu.tumblr.com/

Even Grammy Norma joins in on the zombie apocalypse! Art is featured on this blog, too.

Granny-norma-wiggins:

granny-norma-wiggins.tumblr.com/

Classic Norma. This is the grandmother version of Norma that we see in the feature film, *The Lorax*.

Norma-l-wiggins:

norma-l-wiggins.tumblr.com/

A twenty-year old Norma who is an environmentalist.

~ Fan Fiction ~

Thesassylorax has written many a work of fan fiction, but one of her most popular is "In Our Autumn Years", which focuses in on what the Once-ler and Norma's relationship might have been like. You can find it here:

http://thesassylorax.tumblr.com/loraxfanfics

~ Analysis ~

Is there any truth in the theory that Norma and the Once-ler were well acquainted in the past? There may be! Take a look here:

Notice that watering can? It is owned by Norma, so it seems, but the Once-ler is shown holding

Cuddle time!

the same can. While this may have just been a film decision to reuse an item, it's an interesting tidbit to focus on. Unless Ted let him borrow the can, the Once-ler may have met up with Norma in is old age, at the very least. All of this was pointed out by Snug-ler:

http://snuggle-monst-ler.tumblr.com/post/28362852029/this-is-the-last-thing-i-post-ooc-i-swear •

~ Interview with Shopdeartiste - Continued ~

... process was definitely designing it! I had about ten or fifteen designs on the table at some point, and I had a TON of fun researching different decades of fashion and trying to design costumes that fit her personality. At some point, I even started to go along with a 1920's flapper design and started to run with that because that's also an era that I find fascinating, but I dropped it because I felt it didn't fit her personality enough. But making the costume was fun as well! The most fun (and tedious) part was cutting out the truffula trees from felt. I love working with netting, and sewing fluffy skirts is always fun! Making the costume is satisfying because you really do feel so original (and a bit amazing) bringing ideas from a drawing to the real world. I was also overjoyed to have the photo-shoot, and when I was out and about in the park several people complimented me on the costume. I haven't had the chance to go to a convention as Norma yet, but I sure do plan to, and I know that will be LOADS of fun!

Q. Do you have any headcanons as to what Norma was like when she was younger?

A. Oh gosh, this question is opening up a whole new can of worms. I have SO many headcanons for Norma! She's become one of my favourite movie characters of all time. I have some that are original, and some that are probably pretty well known. I imagine Norma to have been pretty outspoken, confident, and really just the definition of sassy. She also would have been a complete tomboy, (this died down a bit later though as she naturally took on more responsibility in life) but dressed more like a little lady. Her sense of fashion doesn't match up completely with her personality, and she's basically a person whom you can't judge by a first impression. That being said, I believe that she is also a person with a lot of hidden problems. She always keeps her chin up and a smile on her face because she is a very strong person with a thick skin, and not much can really get her down. There's days when everything becomes too much, but she knows her limits and when she feels close to breaking she might take a day of from work or school and find a nice quiet place to be alone, take a small walk through the park and feel the grass between her toes, read a nice book and relax. Since she has lived in the same town her whole life, and therefore gone to school with pretty much the same group of public school children, she set herself up for...

(cont. on pg. 5)

Rainy days.

Norma and Oncie.

Many thanks go to our artists of whose work can be seen in this issue, including: elixiroverdose, ask-thelivingonce-ler (ghost-ler), curlyconundrum (p-curly), widdlez, nighmarewing, bechnokid, moonisartstuff, and happydancerrhapsody.

~ Interview with Shopdeartiste - Continued ~

... not having many friends by being a tomboy. The boys didn't like her because she was a girl, and the girls didn't like her because she tried to hang out with the boys. From a young age, Norma would have gotten used to people turning her down for play dates, birthday party invitations, etc., and that's why she became such a strong person. She also got a lot of flack for being a bit on the chubby side, which is a sad thing, but proves to be useful later on when she turns into a curvaceous young lady! Because she was such a strong and private person who grew accustomed to spending time alone, she always made sure to keep her distance from people. The hidden problems at home I mentioned earlier were, pretty much, just that she never wanted to be at home. An alcoholic father and a mother suffering from schizophrenia will do that. Unfortunately, because she had never seen a properly functioning relationship for herself, that set the stage for some rather terrible ones of her own. Interested men would be all talk and no walk, proving themselves to her in a few weeks as being nothing short of abusive, alternating between emotional and physical. It's not that she necessarily thought badly of herself or was under the impression that she didn't deserve a good guy; she just really always had bad luck with relationships. She's every determined to make a decent life for herself, and is different from most women during that time in that she WANTS to work. She loves being a waitress at a diner every morning and afternoon, while during the evening she takes a shift down at the local bar to earn her keep with her vocal skills. Norma is an amazing singer, although very shy about it. She takes on a different personality once she gets up behind a mic.

I have a million headcanons for how she meets and falls in love with the Once-ler, but that's a different story!

Many thanks go out to member **Shopdeartiste** for participating in this interview with us! All of the pictures can be found here:

http://shopdeartiste.tumblr.com/post/34745972152/some-quick-shots-of-my-finished-norma-cosplay-the

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Supportive Souls

Sticking together and maintaining true friendships is an important part of life, both at home and on the battlefield. While our zombie apocalypse survivors work hard to stay civil within the camp, our members are willing to lend a hand to help those in need... no matter the issues.

~ Apocalypse Update ~

Cheerful spirits are difficult to maintain when one is fighting the undead and trying hard to survive, but the group still manages to stick together, for divided... they will certainly fall. Nevertheless, the heat was turned up a notch when Swag became lodged under a collapsed wall in the hospital. With infected coming upon them fast, there was no time to waste, and so it was with great regret that Entre and One had to resort to chopping off half of Swag's leg entirely. Swag, of course, still isn't at all pleased with this, but the gang did manage to escape from the hospital safely. Now they're camped out in a run-down hardware store, and as Swag tries to cope with his loss... the rest of the group continues to fight for survival. They're not the only ones trudging along, however.

Upon establishing a new base camp, they also encountered another survivor -- none other than Cowboy Once-ler, who very recently abandoned Miss Blithe (in the zombie AU only) and struck out on his own. Ted saw him first and took him to camp, where Entre kindly gave him some food and allowed him to stay for the night.

Despite all that has happened over the past few weeks, the troop's journey is not without the occasional fun and games that help liven their spirits. Swag found an old Atari Flashback 2 console, and he and Young Beanpole played a little "Space War". It didn't last long, but, nevertheless, it's still comforting to see the troop kick back and relax.

~ Support Blogs ~

We all go through tough times, but it's nice to know that there are those willing to help no matter what. Below are two blogs that are willing to help members with their problems or simply comfort them when they're down:

Going somewhere?

http://to-all-the-oncelings.tumblr.com/

http://ask-support-ler.tumblr.com/

Also, check out the Once-ler Adoption Agency, which takes in abandoned ask blogs:

http://onceleradoptionagency.tumblr.com/ •

Have something to say? Like the press? Send in your letters today!

What is your opinion of *The Unless Press*? Do you have a favorite article? A least favorite article? What, do you believe, could be done to improve this paper and make it more interesting? Is there something in particular you'd like to see? What do you like or dislike about the newsletter? I'd love to hear your thoughts! Send in any comments and/or questions to *The Unless Press*. Your entry may be featured!

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